

29. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound has an effect on an MSH5 substrate.

30. The method of claim 15, wherein said MSH5 or cell expressing MSH5 is contacted with said compound *in vitro*.

31. The method of claim 15, wherein said MSH5 or cell expressing MSH5 is contacted with said compound *in vivo*.

### REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-14 and 18-21 have been canceled without prejudice for further prosecution in one or more divisional applications. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended and new claims 22-31 have been added. Accordingly, claims 15-17 and 22-31 are currently pending. For the Examiner's convenience, the currently pending claims are set forth herein in Appendix A.

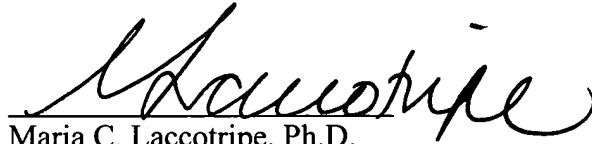
Support for the new claims can be found throughout the specification, including the originally filed claims. Specifically, support for the amendments to the claims and new claims 22-31 can be found at, for example, page 15, lines 16-35 and at page 25, line 6 of the specification.

No new matter has been added. Any amendments to and/or cancellation of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' Agent would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,  
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APPENDIX A

15. A method for modulating MSH5 expression or activity comprising contacting MSH5 or a cell expressing MSH5 with a compound in a sufficient concentration to modulate MSH5 expression or activity.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the expression or activity of MSH5 is inhibited.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein said method is used in contraception.
22. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a contraceptive agent.
23. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is capable of modulating MSH5 expression.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein said compound is an antisense MSH5 nucleic acid molecule.
25. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a small molecule.
26. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is an MSH5 antibody.
27. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a peptide.
28. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound is a peptidomimetic.
29. The method of claim 15, wherein said compound has an effect on an MSH5 substrate.
30. The method of claim 15, wherein said MSH5 or cell expressing MSH5 is contacted with said compound *in vitro*.

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